

## Soil Association Meat Stamp Consultation Context document

There are a wide range of measures in place for identifying and tracing organic carcasses from abattoirs, through processing and storage operations, to safeguard organic integrity. These include dedicated processing times and storage, cleaning of equipment, ear tags and ID numbers. Each carcass must have a carcass ticket identifying the organic status, along with all other legal documentation requirements to enable identification, so the use of an 'organic' meat stamp is in addition to these.

Soil Association (SA) are proposing to simplify the process for abattoir operators by no longer requiring the use of an SA symbol meat stamp on organic carcasses. The use of the SA symbol meat stamp is only permitted on carcasses of animals which have been reared on SA farms or equivalent systems. In addition to the SA symbol meat stamp, we also have a generic organic meat stamp available, which can be used on any organic carcass whether the animals originate from SA organic farms or not.

The use of organic meat stamps is not a requirement of the GB organic regulation, the only stipulation made is that if stamps are used the ink colours must comply with the regulation. It is up to individual certification bodies as to whether to require this additional method of identifying organic carcasses.

Further measures of traceability and separation from non-organic processing can be read within Soil Association (SA) Abattoir and Slaughter standards [here](#).

### **Current Standard**

SA GB 18.8.2 and SA NI 18.8.2 Meat stamp

1. Once your operation is certified, you will be issued with a meat stamp for stamping organic carcasses, sides, quarters and Primals. You must:

- a) name the people who are allowed to apply the stamp
- b) only apply the Soil Association organic stamp to carcasses which are Soil Association certified or those approved as produced to standards equivalent to Soil Association standards
- c) apply an organic stamp to carcasses which are certified as organic, but which are not Soil Association certified
- d) apply the meat stamp to all such Primals as soon as possible after slaughter, and Soil Association higher standard
- e) only use colours in accordance with article 2(8) of directive 94/36/EC. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 27(1)(d)